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SEISDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

INTERIM REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1941

37, Goldthorn Crescent,
Penn,
Wolverhampton.
July, 1942

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Interim Report for the year 1941.

There are still a considerable number of Evacuees in the District, most of whom have been here since the commencement of Evacuation, and they appear to have settled down comfortably amongst us.

With reference to Infectious Diseases the following is a brief summary of the number of cases :

Disease	1941	1940	inc.	dec.
Typhoid	2	-	2	-
Enteric (Paratyphoid)	1	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	34	40	-	6
Whooping Cough	128	41	87	-
Diphtheria	48	28	20	-
Erysipelas	2	6	-	4
Measles	196	73	123	-
Pneumonia	20	25	-	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	1	-
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	23	} 26	8	-
Non-Pulmonary	11			

There appears to have been little notifiable infectious disease amongst the Evacuees.

Considerable progress has been made in the sphere of Diphtheria Immunisation. At the end of the year 1941 percentages were as follow :

Under 5 years of age	35 %	had been immunised
Over 5 and under 15	61.8 %	had been immunised

At June 30th. 1942, just before this report was made, increases had been effected to 38 % and 73 % respectively. Though gratifying these figures cannot be considered satisfactory until they are considerably nearer 100 % and every effort should be made to publicise the facilities for immunisation and the benefits deriving therefrom.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

H. R. Spackman,
F.R.I.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR

1941

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Wombourn.
July, 1942

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following summary of the Public Health work, and various matters dealt with by my Department, during the year ending December 31st. 1941.

It should be noted that the summary relates to work carried out since I commenced my duties here on February 17th. 1941, and does not, therefore, quite cover the whole twelve months.

VISITS and INSPECTIONS

Housing and miscellaneous inspections	...	...	...	...	1088
Investigations relating to Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	242
Visits to Food-Preparing Places	...	...	...	...	379
Visits to inspect Meat and/or Other Foods	...	...	...	...	361
Visits to Stores of Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	...	57
Visits for the inspection of Shops	...	...	...	...	74
Visits for the inspection of Factories	...	...	...	...	8
Visits to Camping Grounds, Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.,	...	...	...	...	13
Visits as Chief Billeting Officer	...	...	...	...	218
Visits as Gas Contamination Officer	...	...	...	...	50
Miscellaneous Visits of Inspection	...	...	...	...	22
Total					2522

COMPLAINTS etc., and NOTICES SERVED

169 Complaints were received during the twelve months and dealt with. They covered a variety of items; space forbids me to enumerate them in detail, but the principal items were :

Choked drains	...	...	...	...	32
Overflowing cesspools	...	...	...	...	47
Housing defects	...	...	...	...	29

Number of Notices Served	-	Informal	121
		Statutory	2
Total			123

The Statutory Notices were served under :
Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936; and
Section 9, Housing Act, 1936.

It is not proposed to enter in detail the results achieved in consequence of the notices served upon owners or occupiers. It may, however, be noted that during the year under review 103 notices, including the two Statutory Notices, were complied with, leaving 20 outstanding.

Houses, or rooms, disinfected after Infectious Diseases	...	35
Number of Schools disinfected after Infectious Diseases	...	1
Total number of Visits relative to Infectious Diseases	...	245

The rather high figure for visits - as compared with the number of cases notified - is the result of a determined effort to bring the Register of Cases of Tuberculosis up-to-date; this has resulted in the number of names on the Register being reduced from about 95 to a figure in the region of 42. In addition periodical visits and re-visits have to be made to cases of Tuberculosis, especially those whose ages lie within the conscription range.

MEAT and OTHER FOODS INSPECTION

Reference to the Tabulated list of Visits and Inspections on page 1 will reveal that some 740 visits were made in connection with this very important branch of my work. In order to save space it is not my intention to enumerate these visits in detail, which include Dairies, Milkshops, Cowsheds, Meat Shops, etc. It would not, however, be out of place to point out that of the 740 visits 348 were with the object of actually inspecting meat, a very large number of these latter visits being to inspect home-killed pork. A high percentage of the number of pigs slaughtered under licence from the Food Office were inspected; this figure being largely due to the assistance and co-operation afforded me by the Food Executive Officer, Mr. A.M. Baker. Accompanying all licences was a form, to be returned to me, notifying the place, date and time of slaughter; in consequence I was able to inspect several hundred pigs during the season.

The meat was singularly free from disease and the only items condemned as unfit for human consumption were :

Tuberculosis : 3 pigs heads
 4 pigs plucks -
 of a total approximate weight - 78 lb.

GAS CONTAMINATION SERVICE

Akin to Food Inspection is the Gas Contamination Service. This Service is organised from amongst volunteers from the Retail Food Trades and would be responsible, in the event of Contamination of Foodstuffs by Gas, for the treatment and salvage or destruction of such foodstuffs. During the year under review a squad was formed in your Area and consisted of six men under my supervision. Since the end of the year the number has been increased to ten, and further training is now in progress, particular attention being paid to the more specialised decontamination involved in the treatment of Foodstuffs

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. V. R. Lee,
 A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
 Sanitary Inspector.

